

Serial Number: 10/764,794

Atty Docket No.: ROL-004US

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraphs [0023], [0030], [0034], and [0035] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0023] Figure 6 is a plan view of an anchor strip ~~of an anchor strip~~ having alternate fasteners.

[0030] A medial anchor strip with alternative fasteners is shown in Figure 6 and 7. Medial anchor strip 70 is designed for use with elastomeric ~~strips~~ straps which do not have a pile fabric layer attached. It is identical in configuration and function to anchor strip 2 except that third layer 29 of strip 2 (Figure 3) with its multiple hooked protrusions, is replaced by a plurality of components 72 having a base 73 attached to second layer 74, and a hook portion 76. Hook portion 76 engages the fabric of an elastomeric strap, or alternatively, eyelets in the elastomeric strap (not shown).

[0034] In an alternate embodiment a pad 100 is placed between the elastomeric straps and the chest wall so as to produce a stabilizing force component normal to the chest wall for added patient comfort. See Figure 10.

[0035] In another embodiment the pad of the previous embodiment is a heated or cooled compress for enhanced pain relief, and in yet another embodiment the pad may be attached to a cold therapy machine 110 for additional pain relief. See Figure 11.

Please add the following new paragraphs after paragraph [0024]

[0024.1] Figure 8A is a plan view of an anchor strip having alternate fasteners (i.e., buttons).

[0024.2] Figure 8B is an expanded sectional view of the object of Figure 8A along direction A-A.

[0024.3] Figure 9A is a plan view of an anchor strip and elastomeric strap having alternate fasteners (i.e., snaps).

[0024.4] Figure 9B is an expanded sectional view of the objects of Figure 9A along direction A-A.

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[0024.5] Figure 10 is a perspective view of a rib splint constructed in accordance with the principles of the invention, in use and including a pad placed between the elastomeric strap(s) and the chest wall of the patient.

[0024.6] Figure 11 is a perspective view of a rib splint constructed in accordance with the principles of the invention, in use and including a pad placed between the elastomeric strap(s) and the chest wall of the patient, further depicting the pad connected to a cold therapy machine.

Please add the following new paragraphs after paragraph [0030]

[0030.1] Additional embodiments of the medial anchor strip with alternative fasteners are shown in Figures 8 and 9.

[0030.2] Referring to Figures 8A and 8B, medial anchor strip 80 is designed for use with an elastomeric strap (not shown) which does not have a pile fabric layer attached. It is identical in configuration and function to the anchor strip 2 except that third layer 29 of strip 2 (Figure 3) with its multiple hooked protrusions, is replaced by one or more buttons 81 attached to second layer 84. Buttons 81 engage button holes (not shown) disposed in the fabric of the elastomeric strap (not shown).

[0030.3] Referring to Figures 9A and 9B, medial anchor strip 90 is also designed for use with an elastomeric strap 95 which does not have a pile fabric layer attached. It is identical in configuration and function to the anchor strip 2 except that third layer 29 of strip 2 (Figure 3) with its multiple hooked protrusions, is replaced by one or more snaps 91 attached to second layer 94. Snaps 91 engage mating snaps 92 disposed in the fabric of the elastomeric strap 95.